



## SIGNATURE GALAPAGOS JOURNEY 7 DAYS

**Effort:** Easy to moderate

**Activities:** Wildlife interaction, hiking, snorkeling, swimming, and relaxing on the beach.

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The discerning travelers will delight in delicious gourmet meals featuring fresh seafood, fusion flavors, and local ingredients, while relaxing at our deluxe waterfront properties complete with spa, wet bar, and stunning ocean views from lounge terraces. Our Signature Journeys are carefully designed to take you to a different Galapagos, away from the crowds, from the strict schedules and large groups; to a personalized, customized and flexible itinerary that will allow you to have the best wildlife encounters, discover authentic local communities and enjoy the finest culinary experiences. Perfect for honeymooners, family groups and those who want alternatives to traditional island visits.

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### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Enjoy exceptional Oceanfront, boutique hotels in Galapagos.
- Farm to Table: a wealth of local free range and organic products unique to the islands.
- Superb Guest Experience, from the moment you book your trip.
- Explore the living history of evolution and come face to-face with endemic wildlife.
- Go sea fishing with the locals to prepare fresh ceviche and sashimi.
- Savor wild pig with a touch of local spices.
- Incredible snorkeling sites, including the best sea lion encounters in the world.
- Our top-rated guides bring you the best of their knowledge and experience.
- Support the local economy and discover the local vibe.

### DAY 1: FLIGHT TO SAN CRISTOBAL/ GALAPAGOS, INTERPRETATION CENTER AND FRIGATE HILL

Early morning transfer to Quito Airport to board our domestic flight to the Galapagos Islands. Upon arrival in San Cristobal, welcome check-in and tropical fresh juice cocktail at Golden Bay. Brief introduction to the islands and day activities before enjoying lunch at hotel.

Early in the afternoon continue to Frigate Hill, where we'll spot many of the unique species of the Galapagos. As we hike over natural lava rock trails, our guides will tell us all about Galapagos cotton, palo santo, acacia, and cacti surrounding us, as well as the blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, pelicans, herons, gulls, warblers, mockingbirds, and finches that we spot in the vegetation and sea cliffs. In addition to the diverse wildlife, this walking tour provides marvelous views of the rugged coastline and the town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno below us. Continue to the local Interpretation Center, where we learn about the unique wildlife, geology, natural history, and social dynamics of the Galapagos.

Return to Hotel Golden Bay for a gourmet seafood dinner. (L, D)

Overnight in San Cristobal Island at GOLDEN BAY HOTEL



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### DAY 2: SAN CRISTOBAL NORTHERN COAST SNORKELLING AND FISHING EXPERIENCE

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Get onboard a speed boat and head to Kicker Rock, the highlight of San Cristobal Island, a world renowned site for snorkeling and diving. Amazing area for spotting sharks, rays and a great variety of tropical fish, you'll be amazed in this natural aquarium.

After this snorkeling adventure, we visit secret fishing spots with our local fishing guides to learn about the traditional techniques Galapagueños have used for more than hundred years to survive in the islands. Catch a wahoo or yellow fin tuna and make the most delicious sashimi or ceviche on board with the crew.

After lunch, we head back to the island and spend the rest of our afternoon leisurely exploring the small village of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. (B, L, D)

Overnight in San Cristobal Island at HOTEL GOLDEN BAY



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### DAY 3: GIANT TORTOISES BREEDING CENTER, FLAMINGOS AND A GREAT SNORKEL

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In the morning, we take a short inter-island flight to Isabela island, the largest island in the archipelago, formed by six active shield volcanoes. In fact, Isabela is one of the most volcanically active spots on the planet.

We walk through Tintoreras channels, a set of small islets filled with hidden coves and beaches. Home to the famous and endemic Galapagos penguin, as well as other marine life. Optional snorkelling!

After a delicious lunch made with local and organic products, the afternoon takes us on a short trail walk leading to the Giant Tortoise Center, completed in 1994 and home to the tortoise populations of southern Isabela. We'll get a chance to see hatchlings as well as older tortoises.

Along the way to the Tortoise Center we pass through a manzanillo forest surrounded by wetlands, home to the famous giant pink flamingos a delightful and unexpected sight for Galapagos.

At the end of the day, we relax at our boutique hotel, Iguana Crossing, where we can have a sunset cocktail, swim or lounge by its infinity pool, or perhaps stroll down the seemingly endless white sand beach. After a delightful gourmet dinner, we can either stay at our well-appointed hotel lounge or discover the quaint sand streets of Puerto Villamil. (B, L, D)

Overnight in Isabela Island at IGUANA CROSSING HOTEL



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### DAY 4: VOLCAN SIERRA NEGRA HIKE, LOCAL FAMILY VISIT AND FERAL PIG TASTING

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Our day starts with a hike to the rim of one of the most spectacular calderas in the world, the “Sierra Negra” Volcano. We discover the native forest of the highlands until you reach the rim of the caldera, similar to a giant bowl of black lava. We might be lucky and spot the mighty Galapagos hawk, as well as other rare birds. Enjoy the magnificent view and learn the geology of one of the youngest volcanoes in the world!

We stop for lunch to enjoy a traditional feral pig. These are introduced, wild pigs, and hunting them preserves the ecosystem of the Galapagos. We share our table with a local family and then go for a visit to the Troya Farm. The farmers way of life is practically lost, so our visit contributes to keeping the traditional practices alive. The Troya family will share the secrets of farming on lava soil and will give us a taste of their locally grown fruits and vegetables. (B, L, D)

Overnight in Isabela Island at IGUANA CROSSING HOTEL



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### DAY 5: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND, TRADITIONAL HIGHLANDS FINCA, GOURMET COFFEE AND TORTOISES

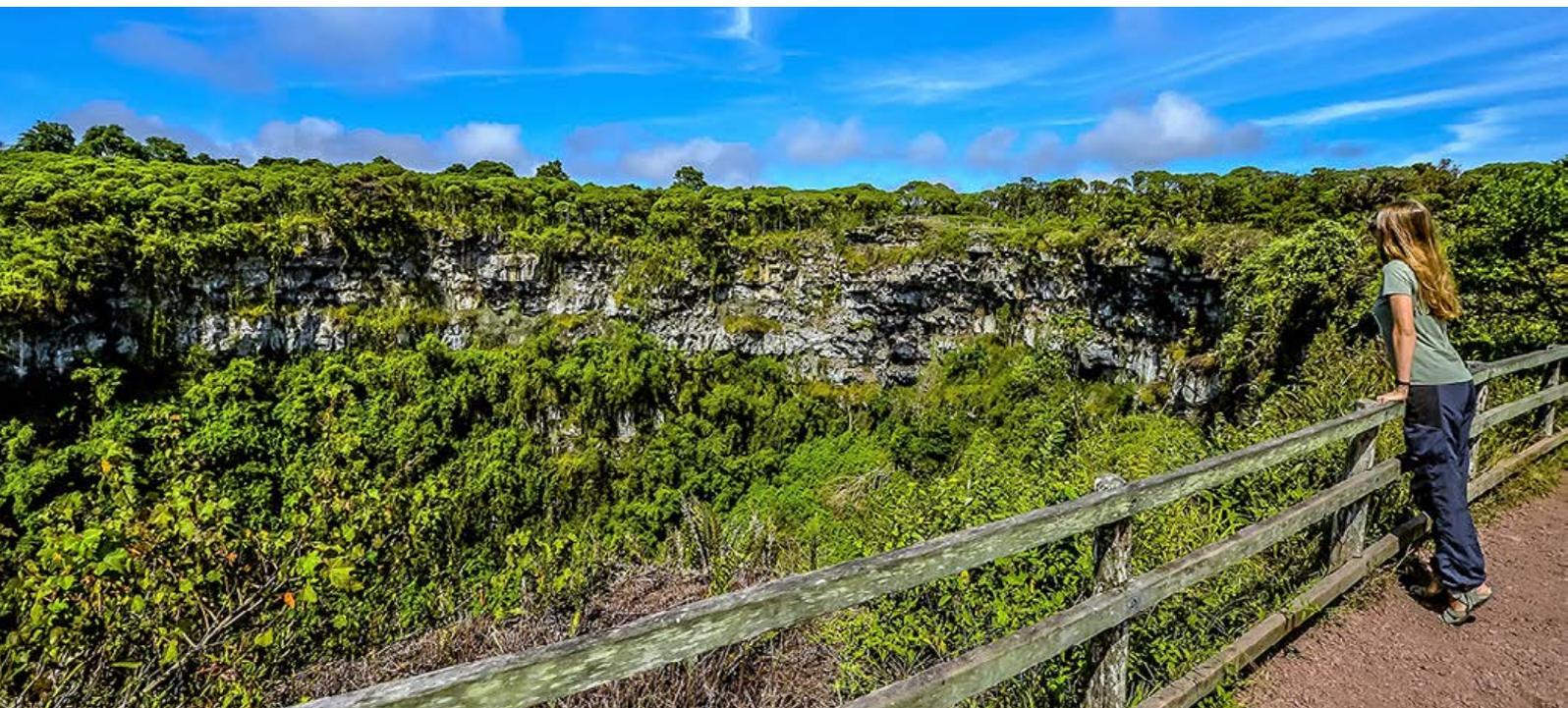
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Take a short inter-island flight or a speedboat from Isabela to Santa Cruz Island. As soon as we arrive, we drive to the highlands for our first stop at Lava Java, an organic farm run by Scott Henderson and his wife Maria Helena, both staunch conservation advocates. Their shadow grown coffee is world class prized and the finca is a recognized bird eco-friendly spot. They'll share their experiences on growing coffee and organic farming, while we enjoy freshly brewed coffee and fruit from the farm.

We take off to enjoy a local "criollo" lunch at another local farm in the highlands. We'll spend our afternoon visiting the grounds and collecting different fruits and vegetables to sample later on. Agriculture practices, animal farming, coffee plantations, sugar cane products made by the owners await us along with tales and legends of the first settlers.

In the afternoon, we visit the famous Charles Darwin Research Station where we'll learn about the giant tortoise breeding center and a small land iguana breeding center. These and many more are the invaluable conservation efforts by the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park. (B, L, D)

Overnight in Santa Cruz Island at ANGERMEYER WATERFRONT INN.



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### DAY 6: TORTUGA BAY, WORKSHOPS AND CULINARY FAREWELL EXPERIENCE

In the morning we'll take a short hike through a distinctive dry forest to the stunning, pristine beach of Tortuga Bay. Along the way, we find many native birds, lizards, and plants. We emerge from the forest onto the spectacular Tortuga Bay, home of one of the most beautiful beaches in the Galapagos. Soft, white, fine sand and pristine turquoise waters welcome us for a perfect and relaxed day.

After lunch, we go to town and visit artisan workshops. At one particular shop we learn about chocolate and the cocoa bean. Ecuador produces some of the world's finest cocoa, and we'll taste a wide assortment of chocolates made on-site from raw, local ingredients.

As evening comes, we'll prepare to visit the most representative Restaurants in Santa Cruz and taste different best sampling menus celebrating a wonderful trip and enjoying the last evening in the Galapagos. (B, L, D)

Overnight in Santa Cruz Island at ANGERMEYER WATERFRONT INN



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### DAY 7: TRANSFER OUT GALAPAGOS

We transfer to Baltra Island for our return flight to the mainland. (B)

#### INCLUDED

- Ocean front accommodations.
- All meals: Buffet Breakfast, lunch set menu arrangements and dinners a la carta choice.
- Soft drinks with meals and 1 glass of wine with dinners.
- Welcome fruit basket.
- Daily snacks and soft drinks through excursions.
- Sampling of local fruits, coffee and chocolate.
- Top rated Naturalist bilingual guides.
- Internal flight transportation.

#### NOT INCLUDED

Flights to and from Galapagos, entrance fee to Galapagos National Park, Galapagos transit card, tips, hotel, extra alcoholic beverages.

#### NOTE

This itinerary is subject to change without notice due to seasonal changes, inclement weather conditions, and adjustments of Galapagos National Park policy.

The weight restriction per person for the Inner Island flight from San Cristobal to Isabela is 25 pounds in one piece of luggage.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**SEASON:** All year.

**ALTITUDE:** 1,500 to 15,500 feet (500 to 4,800 meters).

**AVERAGE TEMPERATURE – GALAPAGOS:** December to May: 80°F to 90°F / 25°C to 30°C.

June to September: 60°F to 70°F / 15°C to 20°C. October to December: 70°F to 80°F / 15°C to 25°C.

**GALAPAGOS WATER TEMPERATURE:** The seawaters in the Galapagos Islands are a unique mixture of warm and cold, ranging between 65°F and 85°F / 18°C and 30°C.

**SUGGESTED ITEMS TO PACK:** Water sandals, walking shoes, rain jacket, water bottle, non-cotton trekking gear, bathing suit, sun block, hat, and mosquito repellent.



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